

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,532,488,016,268.40. We've added \$6,905,610,967,355.40 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, June 20, 2014, I mistakenly voted "aye" on rollcall vote 334. I meant to vote "no."

I support all forms of energy, including biofuels and agree with the vast majority of Americans who agree that we must diversify our fuel supplies with alternatives to oil. The list of auto makers embracing biodiesel continues to grow, and currently all major U.S. engine manufacturers support blends of up to 5 percent, while more than three-quarters support 20 percent blends in at least some of their engines. Many engine manufacturers are now actively promoting their positive positions on biodiesel blends (Ford, for example, now uses a B20 logo on heavy-duty diesel trucks.)

A few years ago, Americans were filling up their cars at record prices—60, 80, 100 dollars a tank—and looking to Washington to see what could be done. To see what we could do to replace a crippling oil addiction with the energy technology this challenge demands, and our nation deserves. To relieve the strain on their budgets and their families not ten years from now—but now.

Our government and military need to work toward the goal of including biofuels in their vast array of energy products. I support the military, I support the environment but I do not support this amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PAT PADILLA

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Pat Padilla. After conversations with a gay colleague some years ago, Pat realized how unaware she was concerning the struggles and inequality faced by the LGBT community and their loved ones. Shortly afterwards, she discovered the local Orlando/Central Florida chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbian and Gays (PFLAG), which

has led her on an extraordinary journey of grassroots advocacy and activism. Working with the LGBT community and allies over the years has, in turn, enriched her life in so many ways.

As a straight ally, she served as president of PFLAG Orlando/Central Florida chapter for 11 years. She also served as a member the Equality Florida Board of Directors for 8 years. Equality Florida is the largest civil rights organization dedicated to securing full equality for Florida's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.

Since 2001, she has been a member of Orlando Anti-Discrimination Organization (OADO). OADO has been responsible for passing various LGBT inclusive Human Rights Ordinances (HRO) and Domestic Partnership Registries (DPR) in both Orlando and Orange County, Florida.

In 2009, Pat received the Orlando Metropolitan Business Organization 'Debbie Simmons Community Service Award'. Pat is passionate about increasing awareness and understanding of LGBT individuals, especially youth and "transgender" individuals. This passion led to her involvement with Zebra Coalition and Orlando Youth Alliance. Over time, she has compiled a wealth of information including individuals, organizations, and resources for LGBT persons needing assistance. This information has become a vital asset for various organizations.

Pat holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Central Florida. For the past 15 years, Pat has worked for Symantec Corporation in both sales and support services roles. She leads the global LGBT Employee Resource Group, SymPRIDE. In 2007, she initiated a change to the Symantec diversity policy to include "transgender". Along with SymPRIDE, she is also a member of SWAN (Symantec Women's Action Network) and HOLA (Hispanic Outreach and Leadership Affinity).

Pat lived in Venezuela for 10 years, where she had the gratifying experience of working with Mother Teresa and as a translator for the Missionaries of Charity.

I am happy to honor Pat Padilla, during LGBT Pride Month, for her compassion for and service to the LGBT community in Central Florida.

RECOGNIZING THE RAPPAHANNOCK LADY RAIDERS STATE CHAMPION SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding feat achieved by the Rappahannock Lady Raiders softball team with their victory in the Division 1A Virginia High School League Championship.

The Lady Raiders earned the 1A State Softball Championship title in an impressive 5-0 game with the William Campbell Lady Generals, winning their first State Championship in the program's history.

During their historical championship season, the Lady Raiders secured an impressive record of 22-3, a testament to the team's commitment to performing at the highest level each and every time they stepped on the field.

I would like to commend head coach Ellen Gaines and all those who are involved with the Lady Raiders for building this successful softball program into a championship winning team.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand today to recognize the school, the coaches, the fans, and most importantly, the players on their successful season and victory in the 1A State Championship game.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 10TH ANNUAL SAN MATEO COUNTY DISASTER PREPAREDNESS DAY

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 10th annual San Mateo County Disaster Preparedness Day on this day, Saturday, June 7, 2014.

This event grew out of the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina, which devastated southeast Louisiana on August 29, 2005. The Nation watched in horror as Americans were waving for help from the roofs of their homes surrounded by water. Hurricane Katrina became the costliest natural disaster and one of the five deadliest hurricanes in U.S. history. I couldn't help but wonder what would happen here in the Bay Area if a major earthquake hit. As all of us know, it's not a question of if, but when.

We convened a small group of leaders on September 11, 2004 to discuss disaster preparedness in our county. From this meeting arose the first countywide disaster preparedness event to educate residents. San Mateo County Supervisor Adrienne Tissier and Supervisor Don Horsley created such a stir in the community that when event day dawned, about 5,000 individuals attended. They learned directly from first responders giving emergency demonstrations, and that first year there were 40 exhibitor booths and numerous emergency vehicles. Through sponsorship by local businesses and community partners, we were able to hand out 1,000 emergency preparedness backpacks to the first attendees and feed all attendees complimentary lunches. It was a true community event.

Every year since then, the San Mateo County Disaster Preparedness Day has taken place at locations throughout the county, including South San Francisco High School, the USGS campus in Menlo Park and at the Event Center. Tens of thousands have been trained. Many of those who attend are young people and students. Disaster Preparedness Day offers families a teaching moment—a time to reflect upon what will happen to each family member if communication is cut off or mobility restricted. As mothers and fathers instruct their young children in how to be safe but not frightened, and as emergency responders offer teens their first exposure to adult-like duties, such as first aid and CPR, you can almost watch the fabric of the community being woven right before your eyes.

On the 10th anniversary of this important day, we continue our tradition of presenting, during the opening ceremony, flags by the San Mateo County Sheriff Department Honor Guard and a wreath dedicated to the lives that